Free legal aid to poor

1048. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount fixed for legal aid to poor people "under free legal aid to poor" facility provided to poor people in the country;

(b) the number of poor people in the State of Orissa who have received free legal aid during last three years;

(c) whether Government have considered the proposal to enhance the limit of free legal aid;

(d) if so, since when and what is the enhanced amount; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, there is no fixed amount for legal aid to the persons who satisfy all or any of the criteria specified in Section 12 of the said Act. They will be entitled to receive legal services for any one or more of the following:—

(i) payment of court-fees, process fees and all other charges payable or incurred in connection with any legal proceedings;

(ii) charges for drafting, preparing and filing or any legal proceedings and representation by a legal practitioner in legal proceedings;

(iii) cost of obtaining and supply of certified copies of judgments, orders and other documents in legal proceedings;

(iv) cost of preparation of paper book (including paper, printing and translation of documents) in legal proceedings and expenses incidental thereto.

(b) the beneficiaries of Legal Services in the State of Orissa during the last three years under the various schemes of Legal Aid and Advice to eligible persons have been 3316 upto March, 2000.

(c) to (e) In view of the reply to (a) above, do not arise.